



Crime Reduction Advice for Metal Storage Sites

The purpose of the following sections is to:

- Highlight specific problem areas that have become apparent during the rise in incidents of metal theft
- Offer broad advice on the prevention/reduction opportunities

Reduce the opportunities for thefts from depots/storage compounds

The following list contains recommendations for reducing the opportunities for theft from depots and storage compounds:

- A Site Security Plan should be agreed and distributed to relevant personnel. It is vital that individual responsibilities are clearly outlined in this document.
- Target hardening by applying robust security methods and systems in an integrated security plan is not difficult to achieve. However, most sites will require some expenditure to bring security up to the required level, which should be to an agreed common standard in consultation with their local CRO/ALO. Hard security should include: high quality fencing, gates, locks, anti ram-raid protection, alarms and extensive monitored and recorded CCTV. An inner compound for more valuable stock may be considered.
- Have a policy for strategic action signed by the CEO or Director (the policy should include several of the items noted below).
- Some organisations have already identified that reducing conductive metal theft requires specific funding immediately, if savings are to be made in the long term. In these organisations conductive metal theft now appears on their short, medium and long term financial plans and should be discussed at senior management level. Any decisions made at these meetings should be cascaded to the workforce.
- Consider installing an Intruder Detection System or other security alarms to the site, which will be activated at the time of an attack. Any alarm, CCTV and lighting should complement each other and an appropriate response be arranged. The CCTV will need to comply with the Data Protection Act and CCTV Codes of Practice.
- Signage should be utilised to advertise the use of alarm systems. Signs should also warn of the dangers present on site and indicate the potential for prosecution.



- Consider employing security officers on site checking in and out vehicles, staff and materials. Their role will also involve the patrolling of the site outside of working hours. This is a simple and effective method of physical control, which is very effective on many private sites. Staff must be adequately trained, vetted and Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensed and should be present on site 24/7. Quality of work should be tested, not assumed.
- Consider having a small number of strategically placed high security stores, rather than many small poorly protected storage points. This could be achieved by using depots shared with other partners to save cost. This must be balanced against the increased threat to such a site and its contents.
- Have a policy for staff vetting at particular high risk sites and for staff who are in positions of responsibility for High Value (HV) contracts and goods such as HV metals.
- Educate all staff (both resident and contractors) to be pro-active by having a “check and challenge” policy on site. This can be achieved by conducting proper induction of staff upon employment or arrival at a new location. In addition staff should be encouraged to be responsible for their own site. Simple measures such as tidying will give the impression of an orderly site.
- Minimise stock levels on depot or site. Using the just-in-time ordering and delivering principle wherever possible (see later—Transportation).
- Chain heavy equipment together to make them harder to move.
- Store high value metal in the centre of a stock pile (honeycomb effect) or in separate locked containers within the compound. Store metal well away from the fence line to prevent easy access from external area by cranes etc.
- Have a system that records the registration number of vehicles and persons that visit or come to notice around the site. This information may become invaluable for law enforcement purposes. This will include any search regime of persons/vehicles that is considered appropriate.
- If keys are used ensure that there is a strict key control mechanism in place for all aspects of the cable compound area.
- Ensure that any disused gates into the compound have some form of vehicle blocking installed, e.g. concrete blocks. This will prevent unauthorised access or



ram-raiding of the compound. Alternatively, consider the complete removal of gates and re-secure the section.

- Ensure there is a policy for the storage and disposal of scrap metal and ensure that the paperwork tallies in respect of disposals and deliveries.
- Where staff are working alone, consider the use of suitable personal attack alarms which should be linked to a response force.

Reduce the opportunities for thefts from remote locations

These areas are usually less well used and visited by staff and contractors. Therefore, they require specific tactics to reduce the chances of the metal being stolen.

- Consider the use of non drying paint similar to anti-climb paint to cover all cables. Anyone touching or cutting the impregnated cable would be immediately contaminated. The paint would also contaminate any tools or vehicles used. By making the paint non-flammable it would also inhibit the modus operandi of burning off the covering sheath.
- Bury or encase metal in sand to increase the difficulty of unauthorised removal.
- Tie the cable securely together in troughs and cable runs with banding to prevent it from being pulled through.
- Mark the sheath with the name of the owner or a unique identifiable code.
- Deploy a visible security presence and patrols using accredited staff
- Ensure prompt removal of redundant cable to a central storage compound with the security levels as above and consider this as part of a contractual obligation if external contractors are used.
- Define the boundary to be protected. Secure all access routes with secure gates and fencing (see above also—depot / compound perimeter security).
- Erect warning notices advising of the dangers of entering the site or facility.
- Utilise partnership arrangements with landowners and local residents in remote, vulnerable locations, e.g. utilise any Neighbourhood Watch or Farm Watch schemes currently in operation.
- Consider alarming/CCTV for sub-stations. Many systems are portable and can now work from solar power.
- Have a strategy of action (e.g. an escalating grid).



- Press/Media notices should be suitably worded to warn of the dangers, rather than to advertise the value of the stolen goods.
- Consider a reward scheme in partnership with industry.

Reducing the opportunities for theft during the transport and delivery of materials

- Restrict the use of driver self-certification of delivery. At all times someone on site must sign for, and ensure, the correct materials have been delivered.
- The delivery of materials should be controlled so that the minimum amount of stock required is held on site. This makes it easier to secure the assets.
- When stock is required for a project it should be delivered just before it is required, not weeks or months before. This just-in-time theory will support the above to hold minimum stock on site.
- There must be a robust procedure for booking in and out of a site. This applies equally to staff, goods and any vehicle.

Making metal and cable more identifiable and traceable in a cost effective way

To make metal and cable more identifiable consider the following:

- Introduce identification in the manufacturing process. Impregnating with dye, post code, forensic strand, branding, dye stamp insulation and core with name of the owner or code.
- Cable sheath and earthing conductor marking (e.g. stamp, colour, engrave, (consider unique forensic markers or similar at manufacture stage).
- Consider use of non-drying paint similar to anti-climb paint to cover all vulnerable cables. Incorporating an identifier, microdot or unique pigmentation in the paint would make it identifiable. Each industry could have a unique "signature" engineered into the paint.
- Company bulk order/one supplier to dictate industry requirements for manufacturers to design and build in the unique identifier.
- Ensure that where unique marking is used a record is kept of the location of that asset (e.g. GPS location) and the unique identifier.

Cost effective engineering solutions/opportunities for designing out theft of conductive metals

Consider the following solutions to aid reduction in crime through design and engineering:



- Use wireless signalling/transmission which would eliminate copper theft substantially.
- Future “Loss Values” to be transferred to development of a project, the aim being to self-fund counter measures.
- Use of fibre optics for schemes where metallic cable use is not necessarily required.
- Introduce unique identifiers at the manufacturing stage.
- Change the shape of cable drums so they cannot be rolled easily by hand, e.g. 50 pence piece shape.
- Consider the use of a drum bracket or clamp to prevent the cable drum being rolled by offenders.
- Where large metal objects are required (e.g. electrical cabinet doors) use of reinforced plastic or other low value metal content material should be considered.
- Utilise alternative low value materials in place of metal where possible.

Protecting redundant assets

Protect redundant assets by:

- Securing all redundant assets together into heavy and bulky units in order to make unlawful moving of these more difficult.
- Removing them from site immediately after disconnection from supply.
- Storage in secure compounds should immediate removal not be possible.
- Use of one sole contractor for the uplift and removal of these assets. Consider contractual arrangements with reputable scrap dealers for final disposal and always insist on copies of records.
- Ensuring all staff and contractors know the company policy in relation to disposal of redundant assets. The policy should include the fact that staff do not have authority to dispose of redundant material by other means and certainly not for personal gain.